



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY
www.ohs.delaware.gov

To: Corporate Partners
From: Cynthia Cavett, Marketing Specialist & Public Information Officer
Date: September 1, 2019
Re: September Child Passenger Safety Traffic Safety News Memo



From the time we place our newborn in a car seat for the first ride home to preparing our teen to drive alone, safety should always be the top priority.

The Basics of Child Passenger Safety:

- 325 children under five years old were saved by car seats in 2017 according to statistics from NHTSA.
- Everyone is required to wear a seatbelt by law, even those in the back seat.
- Delaware's child restraint law says: "All children must be properly restrained in a federally approved child safety seat appropriate for the child's age, weight and height up to 8 years of age or 65 lbs whichever comes first."
- When installed and used correctly, child safety seats decrease the risk of fatal injury by 71% among infants, 54% among toddlers, and 45% among children 4-8 years old.
- Road injuries are the **leading** cause of unintentional deaths to children in the United States.
- Nationally, three children die every day as a result of car crashes.
- Children under 13 years old are safest in the back seat.

Tips for Car Seat Installation:





- Read the car seat's instruction manual and the portion of your vehicle's owner manual on car seat installation.
- The safest place to install a child safety seat is in the center rear position. This may not always be possible if installing the car seat using LATCH attachments.
- Never attempt to secure a child safety seat with more than one seatbelt.
- Harness straps should lie flat, not twisted, and be placed through the slot that is at or below your child's shoulders. The harness is snug enough when extra material cannot be pinched at the shoulder. Make sure the chest clip is at armpit level.

Safety Spotlight: Introduction to Shawn Rohe:

Please join the Delaware Office of Highway Safety in welcoming Shawn Rohe as our new New Castle County Fitting Station Coordinator! Shawn brings extensive experience with Child Passenger Safety and Occupational Therapy to OHS. She is a Lead Instructor and has Special Needs Training.

Shawn is a member of Delaware Safe Kids and has previously volunteered her time at seat check events for the Office of Highway Safety. We are looking forward to having her on our team! You can reach Shawn at (302) 434-3234 or by email. Make sure to say hello and bring your questions when you see Shawn at upcoming CPS events!

AGES AND STAGES

 <p>REAR-FACING</p>	<p>From birth until a MINIMUM of 2 years old, preferably until 4+ years old or when they outgrow the limits of their rear-facing convertible seat.</p>
 <p>FORWARD-FACING</p>	<p>From a MINIMUM of 2 years old until a MINIMUM of 5 years old, usually 6+ years old, when the child is mature enough to sit with the seatbelt correctly 100% of the time, and/or they have maxed out the limits of the forward facing harnessed seat.</p>
 <p>BOOSTER</p>	<p>From a MINIMUM of 5 years old until the child fits properly in an adult seatbelt, usually around 11 or 12 years old.</p>
 <p>SEATBELT</p>	<p>An adult seatbelt fits when: the shoulder belt is against the shoulder, the lap belt is low and not on the belly, bum is all the way back, knees are bent over the edge of the seat, and the rider always stays in position.</p>

What You Can Do:

Use this chart to help determine which age and stage your child is in and which car seat is most appropriate for them.

The "best" car seat is one that fits your child, fits your vehicle, and one that you will use every time your child is in the car.

For more information about car seats, go to <https://ohs.delaware.gov/carseat.shtml>.

What seat is right for your child? This depends on a variety of factors such as height, weight, maturity, and age. Find more information regarding proper car seats at <https://www.nhtsa.gov/campaign/right-seat>.

Delaware Fitting Stations:

4 out of 5 child safety seats in Delaware are not installed correctly.

The Delaware Office of Highway Safety offers free child safety seat inspections at our local Fitting Stations (by appointment only):

Dover DMV:
(302) 744-2749

Wilmington DMV:
(302) 434-3234

Corporate Partners:

Our upcoming newsletter priority areas are:

- October: Pedestrian
- November/December: Safe Family Holiday + Winter Driving Tips
- January – Speed

Please reach out to Cynthia Cavett at cynthia.cavett@delaware.gov if your organization is interested in submitting a newsletter contribution!

Take this month's mailing of posters and flyers, and display them in areas for employees and customers to see and learn from.

****We have easel-back posters and brochures for Child Passenger Safety if desired. Email Cynthia at Cynthia.cavett@delaware.gov if you are interested in receiving these.****

National Child Passenger Safety Week is September 15-21, 2019.
Look for posts on our social media for you to share!

**Happy
to
Help!**

For more information and tools, please visit arrivealivede.com or call our office at (302) 744.2740.

Please continue to share our safety messaging on your social media platform and email cynthia.cavett@delaware.gov with any updated information about your organization. Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @HighwaySafetyDE.